



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces the return today of an 6-count indictment against Ali Al-Timimi, 40, of Fairfax, Virginia, by a federal grand jury in Alexandria. Al-Timimi is charged with counseling others to engage in a conspiracy to levy war against the United States, aid the Taliban, violate the Neutrality Act, and use firearms in furtherance of crimes of violence; attempting to aid the Taliban in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA); and counseling others to use firearms and explosives in furtherance of crimes of violence. If convicted, he faces a possible sentence of life in prison.

Arraignment is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 1, 2004, before the Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema.

Until September 11, 2001, Al-Timimi was the primary lecturer at the Dar al Arqam Islamic Center, also known as the Center for Islamic Information and Education. Al-Timimi was considered to be a scholar and spiritual leader who had lectured around the world on topics related to Islam.

The indictment alleges that Al-Timimi helped Masoud Khan, Randall Royer, Yong Kwon, Muhammad Aatique, and Khwaja Hasan and others to conspire to levy war against the United States; to supply services to the Taliban; to take part in military expeditions and enterprises to be carried on from the United States against foreign states with whom the United States was at peace; and to use, carry, possess, and discharge firearms and explosives in furtherance of crimes of violence.

According to the indictment, within five days of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Al-Timimi believed that an American invasion of Afghanistan was imminent because the Taliban refused the demands of the United States to turn over Usama Bin Laden. The indictment alleges that, under that belief, Al-Timimi told Kwon, Royer, Khan, Aatique, and Hasan, at a meeting at Kwon's house in Fairfax, Virginia, that the time had come for them to go abroad to join the mujahideen engaged in violent jihad in Afghanistan, and that American troops likely to arrive in Afghanistan would be legitimate targets of the violent jihad in which his listeners had a duty to engage.

United States Attorney Paul J. McNulty said: "While bodies were still being pulled from the rubble of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and while America was mourning the

loss of over 3,000 people, the defendant counseled young men to bear arms against the United States. Today's charges are a major step forward in holding this leader accountable for his dangerous actions against America."

The indictment further alleges that, after being counseled to do so by Al-Timimi, Aatique, Khan, Kwon, and Hasan each quickly left the United States. Each arrived in Pakistan by September 22, 2001, and obtained military-style training at jihad camps run by Lashkar-e-Taiba near Muzafrabad, Pakistan, where they fired automatic weapons, anti-aircraft weapons, and rocket propelled grenades.

The indictment further alleges that, on or about May 8, 2003, in Gaithersburg, Maryland, Khan possessed an AK-47-style rifle, a "The Terrorist's Handbook" containing instructions regarding how to manufacture and use explosives and chemicals as weapons, and a statement from Usama bin Laden expressing praise to Allah for the blessing of the destruction of America's greatest buildings and filling America with terror.

The indictment follows the guilty pleas by Donald Surratt, Yong Kwon, Khwaja Hasan, Muhammed Aatique, Randall Royer and Ibrahim Al-Hamdi. Defendants Seifullah Chapman, Masoud Khan, and Hammad Abdur-Raheem were convicted of various terrorism-related offenses by Judge Leonie M. Brinkema on March 4, 2004, after a three-week trial in which Surratt, Aatique, Kwon, Hasan, and Al-Hamdi each testified.

Khan, was convicted for his actions after 9/11 of conspiracy to wage war against the United States and provide to support to the Taliban. Khan, Chapman and Hammad Abdur-Raheem all were convicted of conspiring to provide material support to Lashkar-e-Taiba, a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, and to attack India in violation of the Neutrality Act, as well as of various firearms related offenses, for conduct that spanned from 2000 to 2003. Two other defendants charged in the case, Caliph Abdur-Raheem and Sabri Benkhala, were acquitted at trial.

This case is being investigated by the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Gordon Kromberg and Department of Justice Trial Attorney John Gibbs of the Counterterrorism Section of the Criminal Division are handling the prosecution for the United States.